

The Student's Pen



MAY, 1931

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THE STUDENT'S PEN

FOUNDED 1893

Published Monthly by the Students of Pittsfield High School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

VOL. XVI

MAY, 1931

No. 6

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EDITORIALS	5
LITERATURE	8
POETRY	13
EXCHANGES	15
ALUMNI NOTES	16
SPORTS	17
SCHOOL NOTES	18
PEN POINTS	21
ADVERTISING	23





A Magazine or a Newspaper

THE new building on East St., which will soon be ready for our use, is to be, without doubt, one of the best equipped in the state. It is quite probable that the school will be managed like the high schools in many large American cities. With the changes which will follow upon our transfer to the new building, it may seem wise to change the form of our school publication.

Judging from the exchanges of *The Student's Pen*, most of the larger schools publish a newspaper in preference to a magazine. Should you want *The Pen* to make a change? Let us consider the question.

The Pen was established in 1893, a few years before the present building was completed. It has existed with only a brief interruption through all these years. When the double session came into effect the editorial staff faced many difficulties. There was no place during school hours for meetings and often the little group convened after school. Securing good material has always been the most difficult task for the staff. The interest of the students of Pittsfield High is always in mind as far as we are concerned, and every possible endeavor has been made to publish a periodical which all members of Pittsfield High might enjoy reading.

But it occurs to us that a newspaper published more often than *The Pen* would prove a more popular publication in the new building. When it is considered that there are three large floors where daily occurrences of interest would not be known to the entire student body, it can readily be seen that a paper would be the voice of the school. It would maintain a fine spirit in that large building and would encourage those who would strive to win glory for their school to do their utmost. There are almost fourteen hundred students enrolled at present with a constantly increasing number each mid-year. With a capable staff, every noteworthy event taking place from the tower to the basement would be recorded.

It must not be thought that a literary publication would be entirely given up. An annual containing the best creative work of the students would take the place of our magazine and would furnish opportunity for the publication of work of literary merit.

This article, however, was not written for the purpose of announcing a change. It was published to invite your opinion.

We should like to receive any suggestions, comments, and material which you have to offer. Do you think we ought to have a newspaper instead of the *Student's Pen*? Are you satisfied with *The Student's Pen* as it is? "Drop" us a line.

Why Abolish Mid-Year Graduation?

If the student body read the last month's issue of the *Student's Pen*, it found in the editorial section two articles concerning mid-year graduation. It seemed to be the most popular subject to write about at that time, due, no doubt, to the fact that it followed so closely this year's graduation of the January class and the return of so many students to this institution to pursue a post-graduate course.

Taking both editorials under careful consideration, there seems to be a general consensus of opinion that January graduation in the high school has many defects and disadvantages, and that our city fathers should pass the necessary legislation to do away with it.

After reading the articles of these two writers, one begins to wonder how a system of mid-year graduation was ever introduced into our public school system. Did the School Committee close their eyes when they passed that measure? We are asked to believe just that, but I do not think that such was the case. There are countless advantages of having two graduations a year, and our city legislators realize this fact and will hesitate a long time before they will make a change. What is a little extra work in the administration of the school in comparison with the great benefit that is derived?

It is true, we are going through a very trying period. The present building is overcrowded. But in September, we are going into a new building where there will be ample room for all students. Why, then, should we, because of a condition which is only temporary, change our school system? If there were any need of reform, it was a few years ago when there were not any signs of having a new high school. But now that we have weathered the storm, let us not try to remedy an evil that no longer exists.

As far as P.G.'s are concerned, instead of looking upon them with scorn, we ought to be proud that the girls and boys of our city take such an interest in school work that they continue their studies even after they graduate. Are you embarrassed in your classroom by the presence of post graduates? Are they so far in advance that you cannot compete with them? I think not. They may know a little more about the subject than the average undergraduate, but that is to the undergraduate's own advantage. When the time comes that we have classes with students who are too brilliant, it will be time to do away with schools altogether.

Let us consider for a moment the advantages of semi-annual graduation. In the first place, the classes are not as large as they would be with only one graduation. Imagine a class of 250 or 300 graduating at one time. In a city as small as ours, it would be impossible to find employment for those who wish to secure work. A student who completes his course in January is now able either to work or continue his studies for college credit. If for some unavoidable reason, a pupil fails to graduate in January, he still has the opportunity of making up his work between January and June and thereby not lose a whole year before going to college.

As far as it does away with the necessity of having two junior proms and two senior plays, that argument carries very little weight. In fact, we might be much

better off if we had four proms and four plays a year. The social life of our school, which is so necessary, is sadly neglected in comparison with that of other high schools throughout the country.

There is one thing that the opponents of January graduation have forgotten to take into consideration and that is how they would do away with it. It would be necessary to go back to the primary grades and cease to let children enter school in January. By the time that this affected the high school, twelve years would have elapsed, much too long a period to influence present conditions.

It is because of these few reasons, that I, as a January graduate, am opposed to the uncalled for criticism of our present method of graduation.

W. A. P. G. '31

Announcing a Year Book

THE Senior A Class takes this opportunity of announcing its intention of publishing a year book in June. This will be the first time a P. H. S. graduating class has undertaken such a task since the graduation of the Class of 1915.

This publication will contain all the news of the graduating class and items of interest to the entire student body. The book will have approximately one hundred and fifty pages.

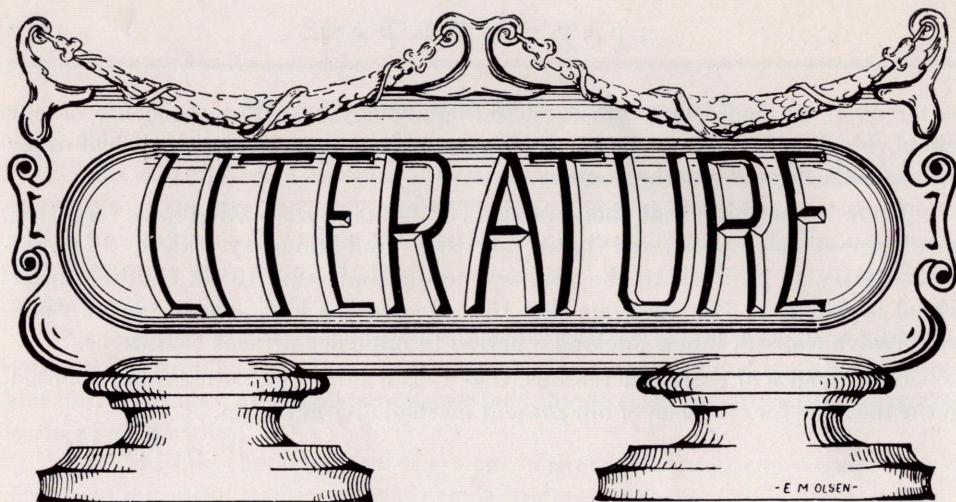
Naturally, the expense of printing such a publication will be very great. It is planned to sell copies to the undergraduates at seventy-five cents a book and the editorial staff can assure you that the book will be well worth the price. Of course, a considerable sum will probably be realized from advertisements but in the last analysis, the ultimate success or failure of this venture will depend upon how the members of the junior and sophomore classes support it. There is every reason to believe that the students of Pittsfield High will rally to the side of the class and help it make the undertaking a success.

For some time P. H. S. students have been accused of lacking school spirit. They have been criticized for their attitude toward many school activities. Here, fellow students, is a splendid chance to redeem yourself in the eyes of the so-called scoffers. The Senior A Year Book is a worthwhile cause—something that should be backed by every student. Show your school spirit by purchasing a copy.

Eugene Dorfman, editor-in-chief, and his capable assistants have spent many long hours writing and arranging the material for the publication. Every indication points to a successful book as far as the actual composition is concerned. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that money is required to make its distribution a reality. If each student in this school would subscribe, success would be assured.

If you desire to sign up for a copy please inform any member of the Year Book committee. He will be only too glad to put your name on the subscription list. Help the class make its graduation a happy one by relieving the staff of this worry!

A Senior A



The Farmer Freshman

JAKE BAILEY was one of the most inexperienced freshmen that ever entered State University. He was a lanky, freckled-faced farmer who hailed from the rural town of Podunk. He had never been away from home before and he appeared lost when he first came to State.

Naturally he was singled out as the victim for all the practical jokes that the haughty sophomores played on wayward freshmen. Jake took his hazing with a smile and soon he became a good friend of Joe Wright, a sophomore and one of the best athletes at the university. Wright urged Bailey to come out for football and the raw agrarian made a good showing as a substitute linesman.

As time passed he became a little more polished, but it was nevertheless easy to tell that he came from the farm. He retained the characteristic drawl, and dressed very shabbily.

He did not report for basketball but spent most of his time diligently studying his lessons, for he was very slow to learn. But when the baseball call was given, Jake was one of the first to answer it.

He modestly told the coach that he had done "quite a bit of hitting back in Podunk," but not much attention was paid to him for several days. Early in April, Coach Jackson inserted him into the lineup as a pinch hitter in one of the practice games, and he proceeded to drive the ball far over the left field fence for a home-run. Bystanders said that it was the longest drive they had ever seen.

After that, Bailey saw more service and his continued hard hitting won him the regular right field job in the opening game with Winston College. In this contest he hit for the circuit twice and it was his terrific clubbing that won the game for State.

The freshman was now in his glory. He received numerous invitations to dances and parties and was the most sought after man on the State campus. He was so innocent that he was an easy mark for the so-called "fast set" at the university.

One evening he dropped five hundred dollars in a gambling game. His creditors threatened to show his I. O. U.'s to the dean when he did not pay them, and things looked bad for Jake's scholastic future. However, the members of the baseball team contributed the necessary amount and Jake was temporarily safe.

Soon, however, he wandered astray again. This time it seemed as though he had no chance of staying in school, for he had openly assaulted a member of the faculty. Professor Willis was noted as one of the most sarcastic men at State, and when he called Jake an "ignorant moron," the farmer boy grew furious and punched him in the face. He was suspended for two weeks and was restored to good standing only when Coach Jackson promised to be responsible for his every move.

The baseball team continued to win games, and Jake continued to rap out extra base blows. However, when State began to meet good curve ball pitchers, there was a marked slump in Jake's hitting. He held his regular position, none the less.

On Commencement Day afternoon, the team was scheduled to play their ancient rivals, Belmont, for the Mid-West college championship. This school boasted of a well-balanced nine, led by one of the best curve ball artists in college circles, "Handsome Dick" Kane, a pitcher who had received offers from many big league clubs. There was much pre-game speculation as to how Bailey would stand up against Kane's fast curve. Jake had been made to look foolish by curve ball pitchers who were not in a class with the Belmont captain.

It was the last half of the ninth inning of the crucial clash, and the count was deadlocked at two all. State's great slugger, Bailey, had fanned three times already, and the home rooters groaned when he stepped to the plate with two out and the bases empty in the last inning.

"Yes, it looks as if we're in for extra innings," was the consensus of opinion in the stands.

Just before Bailey took his place at bat, Joe Wright grabbed him and said, "Listen, farmer, you've got to pole one, and I've got a great idea. You can't hit his curve and you know it. If we could get him to throw you a fast ball, we'd be sitting pretty. Now, Dick Kane's a good looking fellow and he takes a lot of pride in his personal appearance. Here's my plan: Walk out to him and say, 'Pull in your ears, Dick, I can't see the fence,' and chances are he'll hit the ceiling. Try it, anyway."

Bailey grinned, but walked forward and carried out Wright's instructions to the letter. Kane's face turned all colors. The freshman walked back to the plate and awaited the pitch. Sure enough, the Belmont captain, rattled, grooved one for the farmer boy and Jake swung with all his might. It was evident that the ball game was over the minute that Bailey connected. The sphere gained momentum as it soared over the infield and it cleared the left field barrier by twenty feet.

Jake trotted around the bases, and as he crossed the plate with the winning marker, he was seized by a howling mob of State students, who carried him around the diamond and then to the club house where his mates were making merry.

When asked to say something, Jake stammered, "Shucks, it was nothing at all. Joe Wright should get all the credit for telling me how to get the pitcher's goat. And now you'll have to excuse me for I must catch the six o'clock train to Podunk. We have a lot of haying to do tomorrow."

Roger E. O'Gara '31

The Value of Ignorance

"IGNORANCE is bliss."—so it is for the person from whom nothing else is expected. He can acknowledge his ignorance with impunity. Not for him, the endless questions regarding his opinion of the latest governmental procedure, or his ideas on such and such a policy. Not for him, those surprised looks on cultured faces when he makes a terrible blunder. But what of that other poor, intelligent mortal, when he is caught in a situation where he must either profess ignorance or pretend knowledge?

"A person is not expected to know everything," you may say. Nevertheless, when your teacher says in a decided it-could-not-be-otherwise tone of voice, "Of course, you all know what took place at the battle of Thermopylae," how many will dare to stand up and admit that they do not know?

Again, when, after you have spent the greater part of a half hour listening to a piece of music, trying to decide whether it depicts Nero's tantrums during the burning of Rome or the approach of the Northwest Mounted, your charming hostess will say, "Of course, you recognized that selection from Tschaikowsky's Nutcracker Suite!" Oh, of course! You always recognize Tschaikowsky's music—so different from that of other composers!

And where, I ask, is that brave soul who, upon sitting down to a bridge table, will profess his ignorance of subtle finesse and disclaim all knowledge of this thing called "contract bridge."

No one knows the feeling of smallness and insignificance better than that courageous individual who is forced to run the gauntlet of upraised eyebrows and incredulous expressions when he dares to confess that he has neither heard of, nor read the latest book on socialism which "every intelligent being surely must have read."

All of which goes to show that if there is anyone who pines to have his or her name go down in history as representing one of the bravest and most fearless of humans, let him rise in defiance of all would-be intellectuals and proclaim his ignorance which, no doubt, is shared by hundreds of others too timid to acknowledge it!

M. R. F.

Trees

Did you ever notice that trees have personalities and are symbolic of human nature? Every tree whether it be tall or squat, sturdy or slender, each has its own personality.

A willow tree always makes me feel sad, because its feathery leaves are like tears. It seems to say, "I am sad. Be sad with me." An oak makes me rejoice that I am alive. It is so sturdy, strong and reliable, so ready to face the icy blast of winter or the heat of the summer's sun. It seems to say, "I am strong. Take strength from me." A fir tree is the perfect tree. It is a warm, cozy haven for the birds that winter in the North. It whispers to them, "I am your shelter. Rest in my boughs."

Tall and stately, like old aristocrats are the elms. They are reminders of the days gone by, of an age when everything was graceful, beautiful and generous.

Birches are slender, like maidens swaying in the breeze. Their white bark gleams in the sun and they look always fresh and bright. There is no more picturesque sight than a group of white birches swaying in the summer sunlight.

Every tree has its own message and seems to whisper it as the breeze blows through its branches.

Mother Nature has been very kind and generous to give us our trees, for what a barren world this would be were it not for the forests and woodland!

Dorothy E. Schwarz '32

The Philosopher

A MAN was walking along a country road, ruminating upon the glories of his civilization.

"Man is mighty," he thought. "Man has created great cities. Man has conquered the air. Man in his present high state of civilization and culture, is comparable to no other being. Man shall eventually rule the universe."

He kept pondering on the achievements of mankind, and the more he thought, the more highly he praised the civilization of his race. While he was reviewing in his mind, the miracles which man had wrought, he kept on walking, apparently oblivious to his surroundings. At length he turned and proceeded up a narrow mountain path. Finally he came upon an open space on the summit of a high mountain. The sun, a huge, scintillating orb of indescribable beauty, was just sinking below the horizon. Before him stretched a scene of unparalleled splendor. The greatness and the majesty of it made him gasp. Around and below him, great mountain ranges extended into the distance until they were lost to sight. The nearer mountains showed clearly the vast unbroken forests which covered them like a warm, soft mantle. All about him was life; life in hundreds of different forms. Above him, high in the sky, a great bald eagle flapped its way majestically onward. Nearer the horizon he could distinguish a faint glimmering of the evening star. It was as if he had wandered into a new world; a world apart from the civilized world of man. It was a strange but extremely beautiful world, a veritable Eden.

Here things were not measured in mere miles or hours; here was infinite space, infinite time; a limitless world, an unconquerable universe. In this domain the only limit was infinity.

After all, in this vast universe, man and his civilization are relatively microcosmic.

Such were the thoughts passing through the head of the observer on the mountain, as he gazed out into the endless void of space.

Somehow his opinion of man had undergone a striking metamorphosis.

Robert Browne '34

Reflections on Love

AFTER reading "A Speed Limit for Love," I decided to sit down and write my opinion on that four-letter word. Although I have not had much experience as yet, I am able to form a pretty good opinion on the subject just by reading about everyday occurrences in the newspapers, news of marriages, divorces, elope-

ments, and so forth. If some of you should not agree with me, and some probably will not, I shall know that your experience surpasses mine. Well, here is the essay entitled "Love."

The love emotion is one of life's most powerful forces. The desire to love and be loved is the natural craving of the human heart. It comes into being early in life. Even as little tots we like appreciation and caresses. A small child instinctively recognizes real affection, while a grown person can be deceived much more easily.

When sex love comes to life, then a truly gigantic force comes into being, a power for good or evil. Intelligently used it becomes a mighty factor for self-development, but if serious mistakes are made there may be nothing left but human wreckage. Any person who has enough sense will guide his love affairs with intelligence and judgment.

Some people look upon love as a plaything that they can turn to for pleasant recreation. It has no serious meaning to them; so they use it to while away the time pleasantly. Though it may not bring serious results in all cases, it is frequently dangerous.

Love was made for a great divine purpose. It is the source of everything worth while in life. It is very serious and must be understood and accepted, and it cannot be played with indefinitely.

When love comes to you, you should accept its responsibilities. When love becomes such a mighty moving force it changes the course of your whole life, gives you new hopes, outlooks, ambitions, enthusiasms, and it cannot then be associated with the light-heartedness of playtime but with great serious purposes.

A Junior A

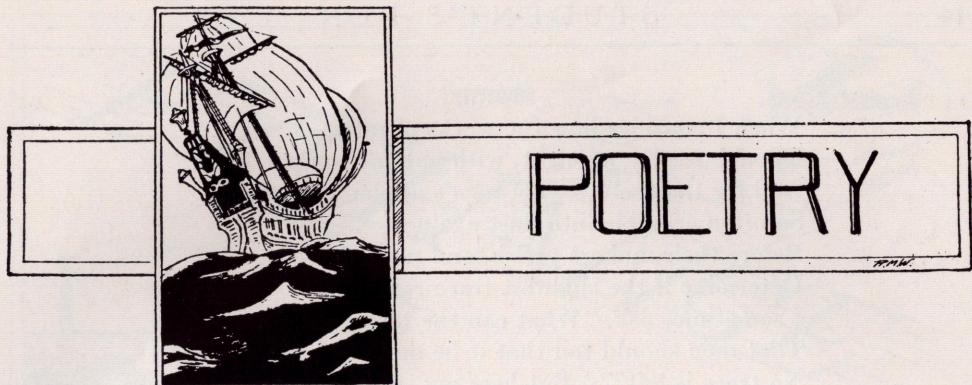
Spring

The winter's snow,
The withered brown grass,
And cold bare trees
Are passing fast.

Instead there comes
A world anew—
An earth of joy,
And song and hue.

When arbutus comes
And robins sing
We know full well
That it is spring.

Antoinette Mennier '33



Sea Fever

Did you ever dream of an endless trip
In an open ship, on a storm-tossed sea?
Of nights afloat in a restless boat
With the stars for company?
Did you ever sigh for a starry sky,
And whispering winds of the warm sea air,
Or a billowing sail in a seething gale,
And a life that is free of care?
My friend, if you feel that a turn at the wheel
Will be a pleasure instead of pain,
Or reefing sail in a blowing gale,
Or swabbing decks in a drizzling rain
Will bring you aught that you haven't got
In your quiet life on the sunny shore;
If you understand that the life at hand
Is a balanced life on sea and land,
And toil and pleasure are both in store,—
Then go for your trip in your open ship,
With a heart that is light and free,
With the sails above, and the waves below,
And the stars for company.

P. Goodell '31

To a Crocus

O gay and colorful flower
That braves the first, capricious mood of Spring,
And raises venturesome, bright fingertips curving upward to the sun,
Flaunting proudly your banner as herald,
Do you know how gladsome is your approach
To a world weary after the battle of Winter?

Marjorie Clark '31

Sonnet

When I consider how the works of men
 Though fondly wrought, with patient toil and pain,
 And for themselves—not men's applause to gain,
 So often crumble into dust again
 Before their makers perish, and none can
 Determine if the slightest trace remain,
 I sometimes ask, "What can the task contain,
 That men should toil that it be done and then
 No trace is left?" But here my soul replies,
 "Nothing is useless in the eternal plan.
 The soldier knows not where his footsteps tend,
 Nor knows the stoker where the harbor lies.
 Naught has been wasted since the world began,
 So labor on, and leave to God the end!"

Edward Snow Willis '32

The Return of the Spring Maiden

Winter, now withdrawing on reluctant, lagging feet,
 Leaves the sheltered valley and makes her way to the hills.
 But the hills will give her no refuge;
 Their welcome is all for another, the onrushing Spring maiden,
 Singing her eternal song of earth reborn again.
 With caressing fingertips
 She touches each tiny bud and blade of grass
 And makes them spring with joy from out the earth
 To see her back again.
 She softly calls to the birds
 Who rally to her summons
 And blend with hers their song
 Of Spring returned once more.

Marjorie Clark '31

Devotion

I have loved and fondly, too,
 Many aged dogs and new;
 Stately Caesar, king of all,
 Mickey next; an airedale, Paul,
 Sheila, collie black and white,
 Buddy, what a lovely sight!
 Trouble, next, oh, such a pest,
 Leaving one no time to rest.
 Pal, a very warlike creature,
 (Bulldogs have a fighting nature),
 Patsy next, a hunting dog,
 Running breathless, all agog,
 And with Gamin all are gone,
 Only Terry's left alone.

Kathleen Downey '32



We acknowledge the following publications:

High School Record, Camden High School, Camden, New Jersey.
Broctonia, Brockton High School, Brockton, Mass.
English High Record, English High School, Boston, Mass.
Jabberwock, Girls' Latin High School, Boston, Mass.
Red and Black, Fitchburg High School, Fitchburg, Mass.
Drury Academe, Drury High School, North Adams, Mass.
Taconic, Williamstown High School, Williamstown, Mass.
Garnet and White, West Chester High School, West Chester, Penn.
St. Joseph's Prep Chronicle, St. Joseph's Prep School, Philadelphia, Penn.
The Cue, Albany Academy, Albany, N. Y.
Red and White, Rochester High School, Rochester, N. H.
Tunxis, Windsor High School, Windsor, Conn.
The Red and White News, Plunkett Junior High School, Pittsfield, Mass.
The Massachusetts Collegian, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.
B. U. News, Boston University, Boston, Mass.
Tech News, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.
Johnson Journal, Johnson High School, North Andover, Mass.
The Central Recorder, Central High School, Springfield, Mass.
The Vermont Cynic, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.
The Northern Light, Cordova, Alaska.



'29 Grace Mochrie was recently elected associate editor of the *Normalogue*, the senior year book of the North Adams Normal school. She is also secretary of the Student Council.

Wright Manvel, a member of the sophomore class at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has been re-appointed editor-in-chief of next year's handbook at the institute. It is virtually an encyclopedia of Tech activities, clubs, customs and student members.

George Holderness is studying at Colgate.

William Kirby, a student at the Stockbridge School of the Massachusetts State College, recently left for Yalesville, Conn., where he will be engaged in placement work in nurseries until the school opens in the fall.

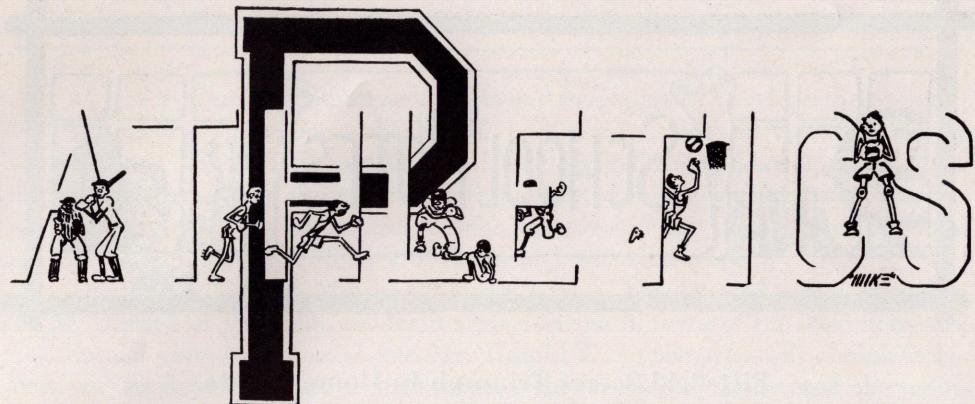
'27 John Walker has been elected editor of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, a student publication at Cornell University. This editorship is considered one of the highest honors that can be conferred on a student of the university. Walker was editor-in-chief of the *Student's Pen* in 1927.

Jeanette Dickie, a student at Mount Holyoke, was recently chosen as a delegate to the council of the League of Nations model assembly of New England colleges. The delegates discussed international questions and the social and humanitarian problems of the world. Miss Dickie was pictured with this assembly in a recent Sunday issue of the *Springfield Republican*.

Arnold Rose has been elected "senator" to represent the law school students in the Student Council of Syracuse University, where he is studying law.

Fiorinio Germano has been awarded a fellowship in the Graduate School at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, for the year 1931-32. He is now a senior in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Institute. These fellowships are awarded by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to male graduates of institutions of learning of the highest grade who have shown unusual excellence in their studies during their undergraduate courses.

'30 George Collins, Hamilton College; George Pender, Holy Cross College; William Holden, University of Pennsylvania; Harry Mellon, Dartmouth College; William Haylon, Providence College; Mary Louise Bourne, Our Lady of the Elms; Johathan England, Phillips Academy; Eleanor Beehan, Trinity College; Leo Clugg, City College, New York.



Baseball Season Gets Under Way

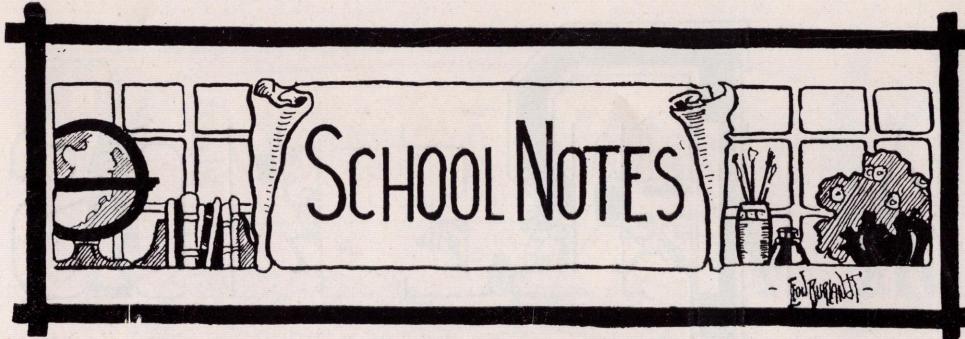
The P. H. S. baseball squad has been holding daily workouts since the first week of April. It is expected that the team will make an exceptionally good showing this year because many of the boys have shown much promise in the practice sessions. "Joe" Woitkowski and "Mike" Arpanti, infielders, and "Joe" DeGeorgis and "Joe" Vaccaro, outfielders are new men who have won regular berths.

Ed Hickey and Floyd Hinckley, star battery men, appear to be in for a banner season, while Captain Jack Madden is covering much ground at shortstop in addition to hitting the ball hard. "Joe" Nilan, veteran first sacker, is again holding down his position.

Nine games have been definitely booked. The schedule opens with the Williamstown team here May 9th, and closes with the second Dalton contest at home, June 16th. It is also expected to book three or four other games. The schedule: May 9, Williamstown at home; 16th, Adams, at home; 23rd at North Adams; 30th (Memorial Day) St. Joseph's of Pittsfield; June 5th, at Dalton; 6th, Poughkeepsie here; 10th, Adams at home; 16th, Dalton here.

Track Team Begins Activities

The track team captained by Jack White is now selecting material from a group of twenty-five candidates who recently enrolled. Although Coach Stewart is occupied at present with the baseball squad, he is making an effort to keep interest in track activities alive at P. H. S. Daily workouts are being held and it is expected that the Purple and White will have a good team.



Pittsfield Scores Triumph In Home Debate

"Resolved: that the five day week should be adopted in all American industries."

This was the proposition which the affirmative debating team of Pittsfield High so gallantly defended against the invading debaters from Drury High School in North Adams. P. H. S. scored a triumph—but it was done only with a good rebuttal for which the judges awarded our school the slender margin of victory.

The debate took place in the auditorium, Tuesday morning, April 22nd. Marjorie Cummings opened the argument by showing that there exist many serious evils under our present industrial system. She pointed out that the nation's working classes were harmed physically and mentally. Elizabeth Holt of Drury showed in no uncertain terms how useless the shortened work week was, claiming that it would restrain those who wished to advance and that it would decrease production in America while Europe's nations, especially Italy, was working six days a week. America must not allow other countries to defeat her, Miss Holt stated.

The second affirmative speaker was Edward Michelson. He pointed out that the five day week was a wise and desirable remedy for the numerous existing evils which his colleague, Miss Cummings, had enumerated.

"Overproduction must be eliminated," he argued, "and the workman must have ample time to purchase what he makes, to rebuild his exhausted physical energies, and to discuss and read of the nation's affairs so that he may become a more intelligent citizen."

Joseph Newman of the negative, argued that the five day week would be a serious blow to the farmer who worked six days, and that it was harmful in giving too much leisure time to the workman. Retailers would likewise be harmed he stated, and revealed the fact that reductions in wages would be so great that they would prove a serious detriment to American industry. Even in the Ford plant, Newman declared, wages were reduced from two hundred to three hundred dollars per year. Captain William Greenwood closed the affirmative's main speeches by stressing the fact that the five day week is a practical reform. He gave many instances and summarized in fine fashion the arguments his colleagues had advanced. Henry Bartholdi of Drury closed the main speeches of the negative.

"The five day week is impracticable," he declared. "It has not been tried in American industries sufficiently to warrant its introduction." The speaker cited many instances as the preceding speaker, Greenwood had done.

After a five minute conference, the teams were allowed to refute their opponents arguments. This, every speaker did in a manner that won approval among the listeners. Elihu Klein and Anna Mirante assisted the speakers by prompting and aiding them to file the arguments to be refuted. The speakers were allowed only four minutes for rebuttal, while eight minutes was the time allotted for main speeches. Mr. Mylan J. Herrick of the faculty was timekeeper.

The judges, Mrs. N. Minsky of North Adams, Mr. Allen of Adams, and Mr. R. M. Harney of Pittsfield, rendered their decision in favor of the local debaters.

Special commendation is due Mr. Harold E. Lynch who will complete his first year as debate adviser next October. He successfully undertook the maintenance of a debating club at Pittsfield High when Mr. Allen, a very capable and popular leader, left the club. It is interesting to note that every member of the two teams except Roger O'Gara and Walter Conuel, will be of use next year.

A. C. B.

McKenna Proves Good Champion

William McKenna, a sophomore, won the oratorical contest held in the auditorium Thursday morning, March 26th. McKenna spoke on "The Significance of the Constitution." William Greenwood 11A was awarded honorable mention. The other contestants were Harold Burch 10A, Roger O'Gara 12A, Harland Braun 12B, Elihu Klein 11B, Marjorie Cummings 11B, Elinor Buck 11A, and Edward Michelson 11A.

Mr. William D. Goodwin presided, while Miss Florence M. Waite, English instructor, Mr. Edward J. Russell, head of the science department, and Miss Rachel Morse, head of the history department, were judges. The contest was under the direction of Miss Madeline E. Pfeiffer, assisted by Miss Margaret Kaliher.

McKenna won more glory for himself and for Pittsfield High School when he was selected the best high school orator in the Berkshire County finals, Wednesday evening, April 25th. A week later, he represented Berkshire County in Springfield, where the zone finals were conducted by the Springfield *Daily News*, *Republican*, and *Union*, sponsors in New England of the eighth National Oratorical contest, and won second honors.

R. C. B.

Senior A Class Will Soon Present "The Nut Farm"

The Senior A Play Committee, consisting of Beryl Madden, chairman, Roger O'Gara, Dorothy Dowd, Margaret Manvel, Grace Pennell, Raymond Lusignan, Willard Tobey, John Nelson, Loring Frazier, Marion Retallick, and Doris Fowler, has selected John Brownell's play "The Nut Farm" for the semi-annual presentation. Miss Mary A. Kelly of the faculty, who coached the last Senior A play so successfully, is again to act as director.

The cast of the Senior A play consists of Richard Ryan, Evelyn Guttormsen, Eleanor Rocca, Sherman Andrews, John White, John Madden, Holt Pilsbury, Edwin Purnell, Vincenza Ciccarelli and Beryl Madden.

A poster contest for publicity purposes is being conducted by the Play Committee.

The date for the presentation is Friday evening, May 20th.

Senior A's To Publish Class Book

For the first time since 1915 a graduating class is publishing a year book. The Senior A's, at a recent meeting, selected Eugene Dorfman as editor-in-chief and Norina Allessio as advertising manager of the proposed publication. Miss Madeline E. Pfeiffer is faculty adviser of the editorial staff.

The assistant editors are Margaret Baker, Gunnar Brune, and Margaret Manvel. Roger O'Gara, who has conducted the sports column in *The Student's Pen* in fine manner for the past year will be athletic editor. Norman Dellert, art editor of *The Pen*, and H. Kenneth Brown are in charge of the art of the Year Book. A staff consisting of Fred Calderwood, Ruth Yates, Elizabeth White, Phylis Sullivan, Marjorie Clark, Rose Alberti, Filomena Massimiano, Elena Rocca, and Lilyan Carr are hard at work preparing the material. Florence Stridsburg, Beatrice Goodrich, and Helen Cornelius will be typists.

Norina Allessio, business manager of *The Pen*, has many assistants who are securing advertising from the merchants of the city. Dorothy Dowd, Beatrice Granstein, Mary Bolotin, Margery O'Boyle, Filomena Massimiano, Esther Levine Rose Chesney, Alice O'Brien, Anna Ahles, and Eve Bergen are working with Norina for the financial success of the book.

Senior B's Purchase Rings

With the beginning of the new semester, the Senior B class organized with the following officers: President, Calvin Hannum; Vice-President, Frank Wetstein; Secretary, Betty Browne; and Treasurer, Alan Shepardson.

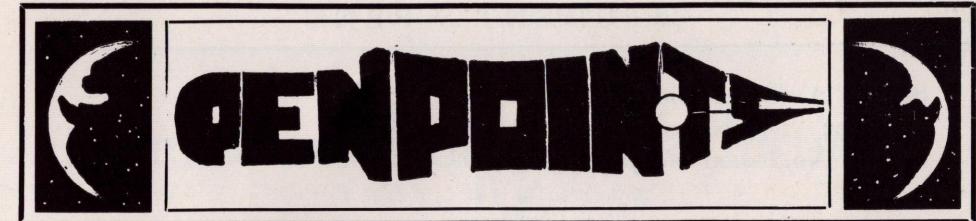
The following committee was appointed to supervise the selection and purchase of the class rings; Marjorie Ranshausen, chairman, and Calvin Hannum, Margaret Griffith, Madeline Drod, Gladys Pomeroy, Robert Morrison, and Stanley Simkin. They conferred with delegates from different companies and secured a number of rings on which the class voted. The final choice has the city seal set in black onyx with the numerals on the side. It may be ordered in either the yellow or green gold. Ring sizes are now being taken and the orders sent in.

The ring committee deserves special commendations as they have put many hours into the task, writing letters, conferring with representatives of the ring companies and solving the various difficulties which have arisen.

Junior A Class Selects Prom Committees

The officers of the Junior A class have selected committees in preparation for the Junior Prom which will be held June 12th. The following will make arrangements for the affair: Reception Committee—Lloyd Stokes, Evelyn Roy, Mary Parker, Robert Eby, and Doris Hunt; Decoration—Dorothy Swartz, Helen Coons, Pauline Kilian, Sam Boxer, Robert Canfield; Tickets—Grace DeVoe, Edward Michelson, Elinor Buck, and Dorothy Craik; Refreshment—Fred Brazee, Grace Ames, Eugene Case, Helen Crowley, and John Green. William Greenwood is general chairman of the committees. Foster McRell was appointed to secure the orchestra, Dehey's Merrymakers.

A poster contest is being held for publicity. The winner will receive two tickets for the Prom.



And now we have the Scotchman who had a boil on his neck and consulted a free-lance doctor.

* * * *

Joyce: "I've been here five years doing three men's work. How about a raise?"

Big-hearted Boss: "Can't do that, but if you'll tell me who those other two guys are, I'll fire them."

* * * *

Uncle: "You boys of today want too much money. Do you know what I was getting when I married your aunt?"

Nephew: "No, and I'll bet you didn't either!"

* * * *

Cop: "No parking; you can't loaf along this road."

Voice within car: "Who's loafing?"

* * * *

"Who is that man over there snapping his fingers?"

"That's a deaf mute with the hiccoughs."

* * * *

Steward: "How would you like your breakfast, sir?"

Sea-sick Passenger: "With an anchor on it, if you don't mind!"

* * * *

"This makes me soar," said the balloonist as the wind came up.

* * * *

P. Dixon: "I've helped to solve the traffic problem."

M. Renne: "Oh! How?"

P. Dixon: "I've sold my car."

* * * *

"There's a salesman waiting outside, sir—man with a moustache."

"Tell him I've got a moustache."

* * * *

Soph: "Invariably I get grapefruit in my eyes."

Junior: "Hello, Rudy!"

* * * *

"Dearest, I love you, I want you for my wife."

"But I thought you wanted me for yourself!"

* * * *

At the party he stared. She stared. They stared together.

Soph: "A chicken, please,"
 Butcher: "Do you want a pullet?"
 Soph: "No, I want to carry it."

* * * *

The height of conceit: working a crossword puzzle with a pen.

* * * *

Housewife: "Well, do you want a meal badly enough to work for it?"
 Tramp: "I'm just hungry—not desperate!"

* * * *

O'Gara: "And what did you get on your birthday?"
 Calderwood: "A year older!"

* * * *

Prof: "What are you late for today?"
 Stude: "For class, of course!"

* * * *

"Joe's growing a moustache on the installment plan."
 "How's that?"
 "A little down per week."

* * * *

"Have you heard the new sneeze song?"
 "No, what is it?"
 "I Took One Look at Choo."

* * * *

A sophomore wants to know if phonetic spelling is the kind you find on the walls of telephone booths.

* * * *

"What course is your son taking in college?"
 "The downward course, I'm afraid."

* * * *

Coming upon a football, which the farmer's son had brought home from school, the rooster promptly called a meeting of all the hens.

"Now, ladies," he said diplomatically, "I don't want to appear ungrateful, nor to raise any unnecessary fuss, but I do want you to see what's being done in other yards."

* * * *

Shocked Old Lady: "And on the way up here, we passed about twenty-five young people in parked cars."

Young Hostess: "Oh, I'm sure you're mistaken, it must have been an even number."

* * * *

A minister, while passing a group of convicts at work on the country roads, became very much depressed at the wickedness of the world.

"My good men," he exhorted, "we should strive to mend our ways."
 "Well, what do you think we're doing," said No. 3289 "digging fishworms?"

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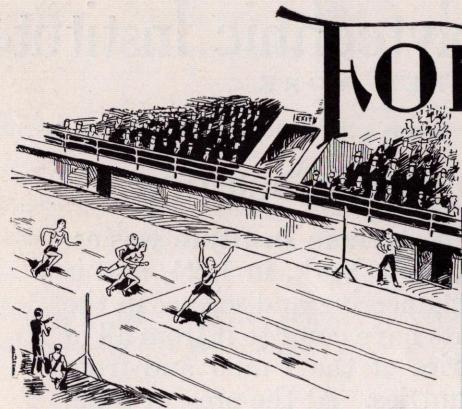
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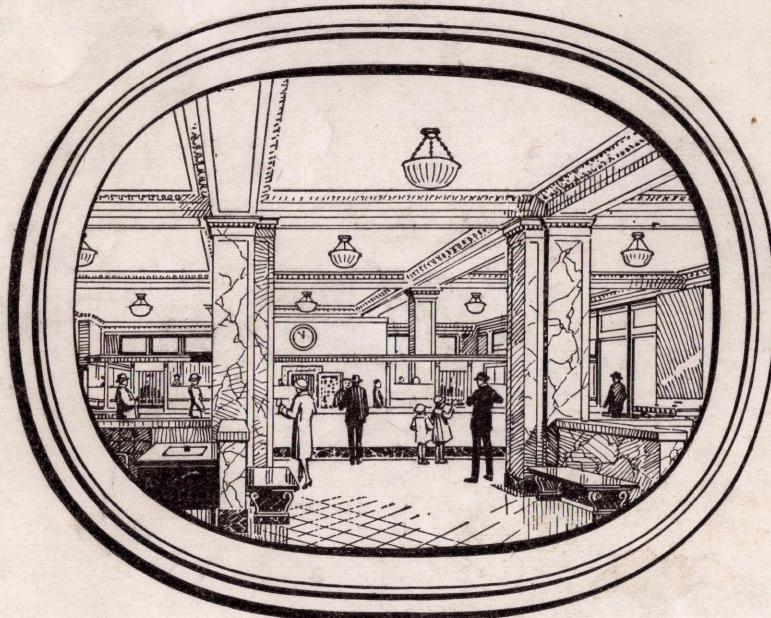
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